Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic messaging system for filtering electronic messages, comprising

a message server operable to receive and transmit electronic messages including electronic mail messages, the message server comprising an access restriction filter configured to detect a human-readable an access restriction notice having a human-readable presentation comprising one or more human-readable characters having an intrinsic human-intelligible meaning that access to information associated with the access restriction notice is restricted,

wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the access restriction notice in an electronic message by comparing one or more characters of the human-readable access restriction notice to respective characters of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory, and to respond to the detection of the human-readable access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect in the electronic message an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the electronic message.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the copyright notice by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to respective characters of one or more copyright notices stored in memory.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the copyright notice by comparing characters in a header component of the electronic message with respective characters of the one or more stored copyright notices.

Claims 6-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of filtering electronic messages, comprising detecting in an electronic message an a human-readable access restriction notice having a human-readable presentation comprising one or more human-readable characters having an intrinsic human-intelligible meaning that access to information associated with the access restriction notice is restricted, in an electronic message by wherein the detecting comprises comparing one or more characters of the human-readable access restriction notice to respective characters of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory, and

responding to the detection of the human-readable access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the detecting comprises detecting in the electronic message an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the electronic message.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein detecting an ownership notice in the electronic message comprises detecting a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein detecting the copyright notice comprises comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to respective characters of one or more stored copyright notices stored in memory.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein detecting the copyright notice comprises comparing characters in a header component of the electronic message with respective characters of the one or more stored copyright notices.

Claims 19-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

detecting in an electronic message an a human-readable access restriction notice having a human-readable presentation comprising one or more human-readable characters having an intrinsic human-intelligible meaning that access to information associated with the access restriction notice is restricted, wherein the detecting comprises in an electronic message by comparing one or more characters of the human-readable access restriction notice to respective characters of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory; and

responding to the detection of the human-readable access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the detecting comprises detecting at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said code provides instructions for detecting in the electronic message at least one of a "copyright" notice, a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic message comprises a primary message and at least one attachment, and the access restriction filter is configured to compare characters in the primary message and characters in the at least one attachment to respective characters of the one or more stored access restriction notices.